



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 5

**Memorandum**

July 3, 2013

To: Nancy Navarro, President, County Council

From: Valerie Ervin, Councilmember – District 5

**Re: County Council Review of Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Programs**

As the Council's representative on the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, I have expressed our commitment to continuing to make our county safe and friendly for bicyclists. The Council has passed legislation to make it easier and faster to build sidewalks where communities want them, funded bike infrastructure, pedestrian safety and roadway projects and has incentivized the creation of bikeshare stations.

I am writing to request that the County Council receive the fourth annual review of the County's pedestrian safety programs this fall. Making our communities walkable and bikeable is important to all of us, and many of these issues cross over multiple Council committees. Even though the last three Council reviews of pedestrian safety programs have been joint sessions of the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (T&E) and Public Safety (PS) Committees, increasing bike racks at schools and Safe Routes to Schools touches on issues of concern for the Education Committee as well. I recently sent a letter to the Board of Education requesting more information on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure near schools.

Specifically, I would especially like to receive an update on:

- Programmatic outcomes of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative since its inception;
- Planned roadway, striping and signage and other infrastructure improvements to support the implementation of bikeshare and the growth of cycling as a means of transportation;
- Bicycle infrastructure at or near schools, including bike racks, paths and signage;
- Outreach efforts, including Safe Routes to Schools and pedestrian safety education at high schools;

- Update on public rights-of-way access from agencies and public utilities, including blocking or closing sidewalks; and
- Coordination with the State Highway Administration (SHA) on projects along major roadways at high incidence areas.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my office at 240-777-7960.

#### Attachments

c: Councilmembers  
 Christopher Barclay, President, Board of Education  
 Board of Education members  
 James Song, Director, Department of Facilities Management  
 Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department  
 Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation  
 Jeff Dunkel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator, Department of Transportation  
 Anyesha Mookherjee, District 3, State Highway Administration  
 Glenn Orlin, Council Staff  
 Essie McGuire, Council Staff  
 Keith Levchenko, Council Staff  
 Erwin Mack, Chair, Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 5

**Memorandum**

July 1, 2013

To: Christopher Barclay, President, Board of Education

From: Valerie Ervin, Councilmember – District 5

**Re: Bicycle Infrastructure at Schools**

As the Council's representative on the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, I am committed to continuing to make our county safe and friendly for bicyclists and pedestrians. Recently, I joined many Montgomery County residents in celebrating National Bike Month on Bike to School Day and Bike to Work Day. While these events presented an opportunity for residents to get onto bikes and enjoy the environmental, health and transportation benefits of bicycling, I heard from participants about the remaining gaps in the infrastructure that need to be closed for cyclists to travel safely in the county.

As the Chair of the Education Committee, I especially took note of anecdotes from residents regarding bike racks and need for additional lane markings/striping, especially at or near school sites. I am writing to request additional information including:

- School support for safe cycling, including bicycling infrastructure at or near schools;
- Process for requesting bike racks at schools and additional paths/trails;
- Programs to encourage students to walk or bike to school; and
- Coordination with other agencies on educational programs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my office at 240-777-7960.

c: Councilmembers  
Board of Education members  
James Song, Director, Department of Facilities Management  
Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department

Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
240-777-7960 or 240-777-7900 TTY 240-777-7914  
Councilmember.Ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov

Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation  
Jeff Dunkel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator, Department of Transportation  
Glenn Orlin, Council Staff  
Essie McGuire, Council Staff  
Keith Levchenko, Council Staff  
Erwin Mack, Chair, Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 5

**Memorandum**

June 8, 2010

To: Council President Nancy Floreen, T&E Committee Chair  
Councilmember Phil Andrews, Public Safety Committee Chair

**Re: Request for Status Update on Pedestrian Safety Programs**

As you know, the County implemented the 2007 Pedestrian Safety Initiative in response to the 2002 Blue Ribbon Panel on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that the County's most vulnerable roadway users receive as much attention as drivers by creating safe, walkable communities in Montgomery County. This initiative approaches pedestrian safety issues comprehensively by conducting an overall analysis of where the County is today and identifying the direction that the County needs for the future.

To accomplish the mission of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative, the County focuses on the three essential components of pedestrian safety: education, engineering and enforcement. Living in and representing District 5, which has a high number of pedestrian-related traffic incidents, I know that the County's initiatives on speed enforcement, outreach and education, especially for children and non-English speaking residents, are critical to improving safety.

Further, I realize that it is imperative that the County continue to encourage and create an environment where alternate modes of transportation are safe and accessible. Improving pedestrian access and infrastructure fits within many of the County's goals. It can enhance mobility, improve public health, promote a sense of place, improve quality of life, reduce vehicle trips, and help to offset environmental impacts by increasing pedestrian routes to mass transit.

I have been proud to serve as the Council's representative on the County's Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PTSAC). At a recent PTSAC meeting, the Committee discussed the potential for an annual Council review of pedestrian safety expenditures, the implementation of strategies, and progress towards the objectives of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative. While the County publicly engages in progress reports on pedestrian safety in CountyStat meetings, there is no existing comprehensive public review before the Council. I believe it would be in the County's interest for the Council to start reviewing the status of pedestrian safety efforts each fall, so that discussions can begin early in the budget process.

In this respect, I would like to request a joint Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee and Public Safety Committee meeting on pedestrian safety. Specifically, I would like the joint T&E/PS Committee to take up progress on the County's pedestrian safety efforts, including:

- Agency expenditures on pedestrian safety efforts;
- Targeted improvements in High Incident Areas (HIA);
- Public outreach and education efforts;
- Enforcement actions;
- Coordination with the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and utility providers in implementing pedestrian safety improvements;
- Emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle safety in the planning process;
- Improvements in pedestrian and bicycle connectivity;
- Impacts on reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities; and
- Future direction of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Please let me know how soon any action can be taken. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact my office at 240-777-7960.

Sincerely,



Valerie Ervin  
Councilmember – District 5

c: Councilmembers  
Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tom Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Esther Bowring, Public Information Officer, Public Information Office  
Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation  
Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator, Department of Transportation  
Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department  
Chief Richard Bowers, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service  
Sarah Navid, Plan Reviewer, Department of Permitting Services  
Anyesha Mookherjee, Traffic Team Leader, District 3, State Highway Administration  
Glenn Orlin, Council Staff  
Erwin Mack, Chair, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee